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DEPARTMENT OF STATE AIRGRAM

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A-454

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NO.

TO : Department of State

INFO : USCINCSO FOR POLAD, DOD, Amembassies MANAGUA, SAN JOSE, SAN SALVADOR, TEGUCIGALPA

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

DATE: June 15, 1968

SUBJECT : Weekly Internal Security Report: June 7 - 13, 1968
DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REF :

REVIEWED BY *Caj* DATE 7 OCT 1981
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

1. Violence picked up during the week and several incidents received considerable play in the local press, but the more relaxed atmosphere which began with the March 28 command changes and which has been reinforced by the lower level of political violence since then still prevails.

2. The incident which received the most sensational press coverage was the bombing/shooting which occurred on June 9 in Zone 1 of the capital, in which the Chief of the Second Corps of the National Police, Lt. Col. Felipe Antonio BAQUIAX Sisimit, and his driver lost their lives. The incident was sparked when a bomb, probably planted by terrorists, exploded at the National Library. This was followed by another bomb and shooting. The official version is that Baquix and his driver were victims of fragments from an insurgent's bomb

3. The highjacking of 2 more trucks also received considerable publicity. One, containing some Q10,000 worth of merchandise, was robbed on the road to San Pedro Pinula in the Department of Jalapa. The modus operandi was similar to that used in the May 30 highjacking near El Rancho, Department of El Progreso, which was thought to probably be a FAR operation. The second truck incident involved the theft of some Q5,000 of National Lottery receipts, which were stolen in the capital when the truck was stopped on its way to the bank to deposit the money.

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4. There were also several more encounters between the military and guerrillas reported but they received only passing press notice. In one, on June 8, two soldiers were reported wounded when an Army encampment was fired on at night near La Union, in the Department of Zacapa. The attack was near where the May 11 encounter in which 6 guerrillas, including guerrilla leader Nestor Valle, were reported to have perished. A second encounter reportedly occurred in Los Amates, Department of Izabal, which was formerly the scene of considerable guerrilla violence. One soldier was reported to have been killed, and 2 wounded in this action. Finally, in Chicoyoguito, San Cristobal Verapaz in Alta Verapaz, two guerrillas were reported to have lost their lives in an encounter. Details on the last two incidents were very sparse.

5. Violence with a political look to it broke out again in the Department of Chiquimula. A man was reported by the press to have been taken from his house near Concepcion Las Minas, flogged, and shot dead ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ by a band of armed men in olive-colored uniforms. Reports said he had received threatening letters from a clandestine subversive group. Also in the vicinity of Concepcion Las Minas, the body of a woman was found beheaded.

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